

Pellegrinisaurus

Pellegrinisaurus (meaning *Lizard from Pelligrini*) is a genus of titanosaurian sauropod dinosaur that lived in South America during the Late Cretaceous period. The holotype was found in the Allen Formation, Argentina.^[1]

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Discovery and naming

The assigned holotype, **MPCA 1500**, was discovered in 1975 by Roberto Abel and his assistant Jaime Emilio Powell. It was recovered from the lower member of the Allen Formation in the locality of Pellegrini Lake, Argentina, dating from the Late Cretaceous, Campanian to lower Maastrichtian, but it was not formally described until 1996 by Leonardo Salgado. Initially, the recovered remains were referred to *Epachthosaurus*, but later this hypothesis was abandoned because **MPCA 1500** did not share derived features with the holotype of *Epachthosaurus*. The generic name *Pellegrinisaurus* refers to Pellegrini Lake, where the specimen was found. The specific name *powelli* is in honour of Jaime E. Powell.^[1]

Description

Pellegrinisaurus is a rather large titanosaur. The estimated body size is about 20–25 m (66–82 ft). The holotype includes an incomplete right femur, twenty-six caudal and four dorsal vertebrae. Autapomorphic features of *Pellegrinisaurus*, by which it can be distinguished, are:

- The ventral side of the centrum of the dorsals has a transverse width equal to twice the dorsoventral (vertical) depth.
- The mid-posterior and posterior caudals are anteroposteriorly (horizontally) elongated and have dorsoventrally depressed neural spines, the anterior ends of which are higher anteriorly than posteriorly.

Pellegrinisaurus

Temporal range: Late Cretaceous, Campanian–Maastrichtian

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Diagram showing known fragments from the holotype

Scientific classification 

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Clade: Dinosauria

Clade: Saurischia

Suborder: †Sauropodomorpha

Clade: †Sauropoda

Clade: †Titanosauria

Clade: †Lithostrotia

Family: †Saltasauridae

Subfamily: †Opisthocoelicaudiinae

Genus: †*Pellegrinisaurus*
Salgado, 1996

Type species

†***Pellegrinisaurus powelli***
Salgado, 1996

Pellegrinisaurus differs from other titanosaurs by having anteroposteriorly elongate and dorsoventrally depressed mid-posterior and posterior caudal spines; Salgado interpreted this condition as an extra-articulation between the neural spine and the articular process of the subsequent vertebra, that reduced tail movement.^[1]

The right femur is partially preserved. It is anteroposteriously compressed with a very flattened fourth trochanter. Laterally, it features a pronounced bulge similar to that of *Chubutisaurus*, brachiosaurids and other titanosaurs.^[1]



Locality of Pellegrini Lake

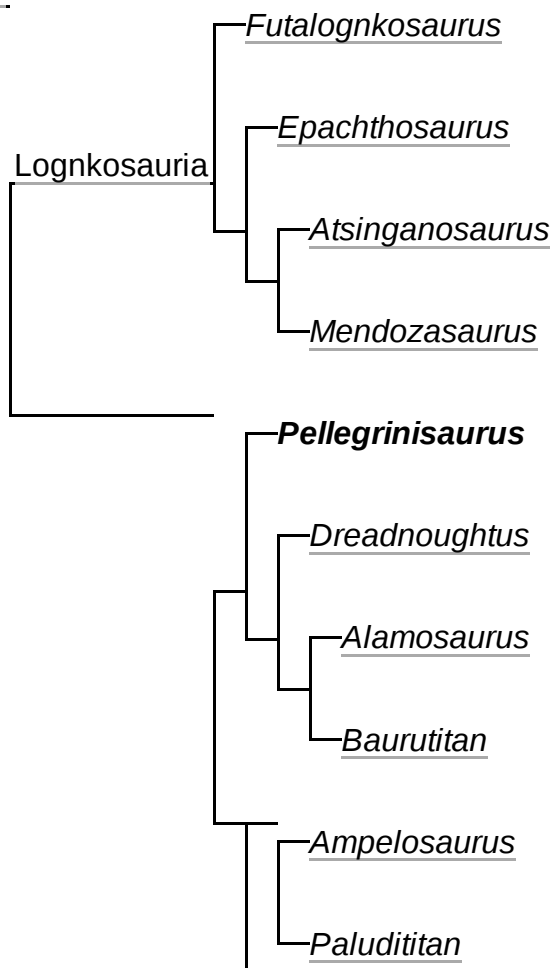
Paleoecology

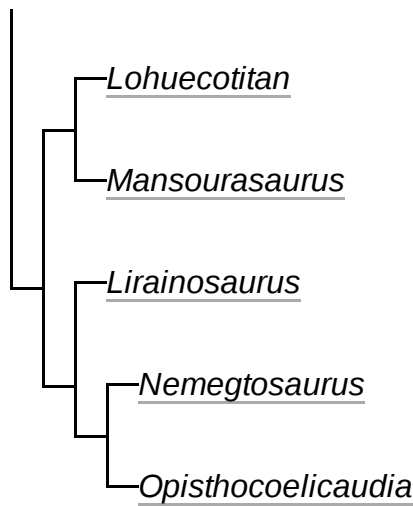
Pellegrinisaurus was unearthed from the Allen Formation, in which it probably lived alongside other titanosaurs, such as *Aeolosaurus* and *Rocasaurus*.^[2] Salgado suggested that contemporaneous hadrosaurids and the titanosaur *Aeolosaurus* inhabited coastal lowlands while other larger titanosaurs (such as *Pellegrinisaurus*) and theropods inhabited interior environments of the region.^[1]

Classification

Initially, Salgado placed *Pellegrinisaurus* as a possible sister taxon of the Saltosaurinae, in view of the build of its vertebrae.^[1] Later, during the description of *Mansourasaurus*, Sallam *et al.* (2017) published a complete phylogenetic analysis of the Titanosauria in which *Pellegrinisaurus* is found to be part of the clade Lithostrotia, in the Opisthocoelicaudiinae.^[3]

Opisthocoelicaudiinae





References

1. Salgado, L. (1996). "Pellegrinisaurus powelli nov. gen. et sp. (Sauropoda, Titanosauridae) from the Upper Cretaceous of Lago Pellegrini, Northwestern Patagonia, Argentina". *Ameghiniana*. **33** (4): 355–365. ISSN 1851-8044 (<https://www.worldcat.org/issn/1851-8044>).
2. Garcia, R. A.; Salgado, L. (2013). "The Titanosaur Sauropods from the Late Campanian—Early Maastrichtian Allen Formation of Salitral Moreno, Río Negro, Argentina" (<https://doi.org/10.4202/app.2011.0055>). *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*. **58** (2): 269–284. doi:10.4202/app.2011.0055 (<https://doi.org/10.4202%2Fapp.2011.0055>).
3. Sallam, H.; Gorscak, E.; O'Connor, P.; El-Dawoudi, I.; El-Sayed, S.; Saber, S. (2017-06-26). "New Egyptian sauropod reveals Late Cretaceous dinosaur dispersal between Europe and Africa". *Nature*. **2** (3): 445–451. doi:10.1038/s41559-017-0455-5 (<https://doi.org/10.1038%2Fs41559-017-0455-5>). PMID 29379183 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29379183>).

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